

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of assembling magnetic circuitry for an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) system, the MRI system comprising two permanent magnets provided within a yoke such as to face each other for generating a magnetic field in a space defined therebetween, and two pole pieces respectively provided on opposing surfaces of said permanent magnets, said method comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

assembling the two permanent magnets and the yoke; and

installing one of the pole pieces at a predetermined position of the corresponding permanent magnet by sliding the pole piece on said corresponding permanent magnet ~~in a direction parallel~~ in contact with a main surface of said corresponding permanent magnet on which said one of the pole pieces is to be installed.

2. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein lubricant oil is previously applied to portions where the pole piece is to contact the permanent magnet.

3. (currently amended): A method of assembling magnetic circuitry for an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) system, the MRI system comprising two permanent magnets provided within a yoke such as to face each other for generating magnetic field in a space

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defined therebetween, and two pole pieces respectively provided on opposing surfaces of said permanent magnets, said method comprising the steps of:

assembling the two permanent magnets and the yoke;

installing one of the pole pieces at a predetermined position of the corresponding permanent magnet by sliding said one of the pole pieces on said corresponding permanent magnet ~~in a direction parallel~~in contact with ~~a~~the main surface of said corresponding permanent magnet on which said one of the pole pieces is to be installed; and

installing the other pole piece at a predetermined position of the other permanent magnet by sliding said other pole piece on the permanent magnet ~~in a direction parallel~~in contact with a main surface of the permanent magnet on which the other pole piece is to be installed.

4. (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein lubricant oil is previously applied to portions where each of the pole ~~piece~~pieces is to contact the permanent magnet.